

Message Text

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71

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CG-00 DOTE-00 JUSE-00 L-03 INSE-00

DODE-00 SS-20 NSC-07 SP-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 DRC-01 /066 W

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P R 201934Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5694

INFO AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NASSAU 1097

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, SREF, SGEN, HA BF

SUBJECT: ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS GET ANOTHER TWO WEEKS

REF: NASSAU 1053

1. AS MINISTER ROLLE PREDICTED TO AMBASSADOR, REFTTEL, IT WAS ANNOUNCED JUNE 19 THAT THE AMNESTY DURING WHICH ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS IN THE BAHAMAS MUST EITHER DEPART VOLUNTARILY OR REGISTER FOR POSSIBLE EVENTUAL DEPORTATION HAS BEEN EXTENDED FOR TWO WEEKS. AMNESTY PERIOD WILL NOW EXPIRE JULY 3.

2. ANTICIPATING CRITICISM THAT AMNESTY EXTENSION CONSTITUTES GCOB PULL BACK FROM ANNOUNCED TOUGH POLICY ON ILLEGALS, ROLLE STRESSED THAT IMMIGRANTS AND THEIR EMPLOYERS IN THE BAHAMAS WHO FORESAW A MORE RELAXED GOVERNMENT ATTITUDE "DO SO AT THEIR OWN PERIL." HE SAID THAT "THE INTERNAL ADMINISTRATIVE MACHINERY" OF THE GCOB WOULD BE STRENGTHENED TO DETECT FUTURE ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION ATTEMPTS AND TO APPREHEND ILLEGALS REMAINING AFTER JULY 3. EVEN AS ROLLE MADE HIS ANNOUNCEMENT, SOME 40 HAITIANS WERE APPREHENDED OFF ANDROS AS THEY ATTEMPTED

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TO LAND ILLEGALLY, PERHAPS INDICATING THAT NEWS OF

GCOB POLICY IS NOT YET FILTERING SOUTH.

3. ROLLE SAID THAT, AS OF JUNE 17, 2,814 ILLEGALS HAVE REGISTERED IN NASSAU AND 1,770 MORE IN FREEPORT. NUMBERS FOR SMALLER ISLANDS WERE NOT AVAILABLE, NOR OF COURSE WERE THOSE FOR ILLEGALS WHO HAVE LEFT VOLUNTARILY SINCE JUNE 6 WITHOUT REGISTERING. ONLY 171 PERSONS AMONG THE TOTAL 4,584 REGISTREES WERE NOT HAITIAN: 160 JAMAICANS, 4 TURKS ISLANDERS, 2 TRINIDADIAN, 2 BARBADIANS, 1 EACH U.K. CANADIAN AND DUTCH. PREPONDERANCE OF HAITIANS LED ROLLE TO EMPHASIZE THAT POLICY, INCLUDING AMNESTY PERIOD, APPLIES TO ALL ILLEGALS REGARDLESS OF ORIGIN.

4. COMMENT: ROLLE SAID THAT "ANY ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT WHO IS UNABLE TO LEAVE THE BAHAMAS WITHIN THE PERIOD OF THE AMNESTY MUST REGISTER WITH THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT IF HE IS TO AVOID BEING ARRESTED AND IMPRISONED IN THE EXERCISE TO FOLLOW." CONCEPT SEEMS TO BE TO ENCOURAGE REGISTRATION BY CONCENTRATING AFTER JULY 3 FIRST ON THOSE WHO HAVE NOT DONE SO AND THEN LATER MOPPING UP REGISTREES WHO HAVE NOT REGULARIZED THEIR STATUS IN THE MEANTIME. MANY ILLEGALS SEEM CURRENTLY ENGAGED IN TRYING TO SEEK REGULARIZATION, I.E. WORK AND RESIDENCE PERMITS, BY ANY MEANS POSSIBLE, INCLUDING THE TEMPORARY "ADOPTION" OF BAHAMIAN CHILDREN. CERTAINLY THE NUMBERS OF THOSE WHO HAVE ALREADY REGISTERED THEIR ILLEGAL PRESENCE OR VOLUNTARILY LEFT THE BAHAMAS DOES NOT BEGIN TO APPROACH THE FIGURE OF 25,000 USED PRIVATELY BY ROLLE (OR THE 40,000 CITED LESS AUTHORITATIVELY BY OTHERS) FOR THE TOTAL OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS PRESENTLY IN THE BAHAMAS.
SPIERS

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